



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** March 6, 2017

### **Citizens Urged to Participate in Missouri's Annual Severe Weather Awareness Week**

**SPRINGFIELD, Missouri** – Residents of Greene County are urged to protect themselves against the threat of severe weather by participating in Missouri's Severe Weather Awareness Week on March 6 -10. To coincide, Missouri's annual statewide tornado drill will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m. The outdoor warning sirens will sound in Greene County as part of the drill. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) encourages citizens to practice seeking shelter when they hear the sirens' warning sound. The safest shelter location is in a tornado safe room or a basement. Other safe locations include interior windowless rooms on the lowest level of a structure or interior stairwells.

If severe weather is in the forecast, the drill will be moved to Thursday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. OEM's participation in the annual tornado drill will replace the regularly scheduled outdoor warning siren test in Greene County for the month of March.

"We experience many severe weather hazards here in Greene County," said Larry Woods, interim director of the OEM. "Severe Weather Awareness Week provides the opportunity for people to learn more about tornadoes, flooding and severe thunderstorms. We encourage everyone to practice ways to respond to these threats so that ultimately, they have the knowledge and the tools necessary to survive a significant severe weather event."

Each day during the week focuses on a different safety message: Monday, March 6, Preparedness Day; Tuesday, March 7, Tornado Safety Day; Wednesday, March 8, Flash Flood Safety Day; Thursday, March 9, Severe Thunderstorm Day; and Friday, March 10, Communication/NOAA Weather Radio Day.

OEM, in partnership with the U.S. National Weather Service, Springfield, MO (NWS), will also host the 2017 Storm Spotter Training course on Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Assemblies of God National Leadership and Resource Center, 1445 N. Boonville Ave. The public is invited to attend this free event and learn more about how trained storm spotters assist OEM and NWS during severe weather events.

Severe weather safety tips and resources are available on OEM's website at [oem.greenecountymo.gov](http://oem.greenecountymo.gov), NWS's [Severe Weather Awareness Week](#) page and on Missouri's [StormAware](#) website.

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**For more information**, contact Erin Hedlun, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-860-0903 (cell) or [ehedlun@greenecountymo.gov](mailto:ehedlun@greenecountymo.gov).